

### **Announcement of the National Defense Service Medal**

The Department of Defense announced that servicemembers on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to receive the National Defense Service Medal. The National Defense Service Medal may also be awarded to members of the Reserve components who are ordered to federal active duty, regardless of duration, except for certain categories. While no closing date has been established, eligible servicemembers can receive the award immediately. The National Defense Service Medal was first established by President Eisenhower in 1953, and was subsequently awarded for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974, and between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995. Individuals can purchase the National Defense Service Medal at the clothing sales store.

### **Detailed Recruiter Assignment Preference Program (DRAPP)**

The Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate (EPMD) announces the new procedures to support the Detailed Recruiter Assignment Preference Program (DRAPP). EPMD is committed to assigning, to the maximum extent possible, detailed recruiters to one of their preferences on the Assignment Satisfaction Key "ASK." The DRAPP is an incentive for soldiers to volunteer for and successfully complete detailed recruiter duty. In support of the DRAPP, EPMD has committed to assigning detailed recruiters to one of their three CONUS preferences (or if preferred, an overseas volunteer location) to the maximum extent possible. As an added incentive, detailed recruiters who voluntarily extend their duty for 12 months will be placed on assignment instructions for their follow-on assignment at the time the extension is approved. On 17 April 2002, via PERSGRAMS, EPMD notified all detailed recruiters to update their assignment preferences using the assignment satisfaction key--an internet tool that provides soldiers the capability to post assignment preferences directly to the Total Army Personnel Database (TAPDB). Beginning Mid-May 2002, detailed recruiters will be notified (via PERSGRAMS) 18 months prior to release from recruiter duty to update their assignment preferences using ASK. An Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account password is required to update assignment preference and overseas volunteer location information. Use of AKO ensures necessary security requirements are met. Using ASK, detailed recruiters must enter two CONUS locations from a divisional installation listing and one CONUS location from a more expanded listing. If an overseas location is preferred, enter overseas locations in the "volunteer assignment" section of ASK. Information should be updated not later than 18 months prior to projected release from detailed recruiting duty.

### **Service Remaining Requirement for PLDC**

The Army announces an exception to policy for the Service Remaining Obligation (SRO) for Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) graduates. Soldiers attending PLDC will incur a 6-month SRO upon graduation. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 has granted an exception to this policy, allowing soldiers to transition to a Troop Program Unit (TPU) of the United States Army Reserve (USAR) or Army National Guard (ARNG) without incurring any SRO upon graduation from PLDC. This exception only applies to soldiers who have or are in the process of completing an enlistment commitment to a troop program unit. Soldiers who fail to transfer to a troop program unit are required to fulfill the 6-month SRO for PLDC attendance. Soldiers who are otherwise eligible may continue to reenlist in the regular army.

**Field to File**  
**(516<sup>th</sup>/509<sup>th</sup> PSB)**

As of late February 2002, the two personnel service battalions (PSBs) supporting soldiers in Korea, 509th PSB and 516th PSB, started participating in "Field to File." The PSBs are electronically submitting key documents to enlisted soldiers' Official Military Personnel File (OMPF). Along with reducing late evaluations, soldiers have the added benefit of being able to view their documents within a few days of submission through OMPF on-line. Two units in Korea, 94th MP BN and DISCOM/2nd FSB have been participating in Field to File since Oct 2001. The key documents the PSBs submit are NCOERs, awards, academic evaluation reports, education/training documents, promotion and service related documents, and disciplinary actions using Hewlett Packard Digital Senders, which are configured to scan and send the electronic images of the documents straight to a server in Indianapolis. EREC intends to expand field to file to include officer evaluations, then later this year expand sending of documents to other users with special software instead of digital senders